GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2746
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
PROJECT TIGER
AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER;RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the the Tiger Project has failed in achieving its goal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Tigers in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether their number is declining considerably ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for the conservation of areas having large Tiger population ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) : No, Sir. In fact Project Tiger is considered a successful tiger conservation programme because ever since it was launched in 1973 there has been a steady increase in country`s tiger population till 1989. However, a decline in tiger population was recorded during 1993 which was mainly attributed to man-animal conflict in fragmented tiger habitats outside the protected areas and poaching of tigers to meet the demand of tiger parts in international markets. The State-wise tiger population as per the past successive estimations are given in Annexure-I. The Government has taken several measures to protect and conserve the tiger and its habitats which are given in Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE (IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 2746 FOR 13.03.2000 REGARDING PROJECT TIGER POPULATION OF TIGERS IN THE COUNTRY AS REPORTED BY THE STATES

S.NO.	NAME OF THE STATE	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
1	TAMIL NADU	33	65	97	95	97	62
2	MAHARASHTRA	160	174	301	417	276	257
3	WEST BENGAL	73	296	352	353	335	361
4	HARYANA	102	156	202	257	305	350
5	BIHAR	85	110	138	157	137	103
6	ASSAM	147	300	376	376	325	458
7	RAJASTHAN	74	79	96	99	64	58
8	MADHYA PRADESH	457	529	786	985	912	927
9	UTTAR PRADESH	262	487	698	735	465	475
10	ANDHRA PRADESH	35	148	164	235	197	171
11	MIZORAM	-	65	33	18	28	12
12	GUJARAT	8	7	9	9	5	1
13	GOA DAMAN & DIU	-	-	-	2	3	6
14	ORISSA	142	173	202	243	226	194
	TOTAL	1578	2589	3454	3981	3375	3435
15	KERALA	60	134	89	45	57	N.R.
16	MEGHALYA	32	35	125	34	53	N.R.
17	MANIPUR	1	10	6	31	-	N.R.
18	TRIPURA	7	6	5	-	-	N.R.
19	NAGALAND	80	102	104	104	83	N.R.
20	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	69	139	219	135	180	N.R.
21	SIKKIM	-	-	2	4	2	N.R.
22	HARYANA	-	-	1	-	-	N.R.
	TOTAL	249	426	551	353	375	N.R.

N.R.- Not reported by States

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE (IN RESPECT OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 2746 FOR 13.03-2000 REGARDING PROJECT TIGER)

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organizations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training Programs and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary(Home), Director, C B I And representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure Including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.

5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.

6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organizations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.

9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.

12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:-

(i) A protocol has been signed with People`s Republic of China.

(ii) An MOU with his Majesty`s Government of Nepal has been signed.

(iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.

3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India`s initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999.The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.